



# ***Fort Riley***

## ***Home of America's Army***

### **Soldier & Family Life Consultants**

**Call Army Community Service at  
785-239-9435 or 1-877-541-4027**

#### **What is the Soldier and Family Life Consultants Program?**

It is an Army program designed to provide anonymous, confidential support to Soldiers and their family members, especially those returning from deployments. Units that return from deployment may request Life Consultants through Army Community Service. The Program serves active duty, mobilized National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers and their families.

#### **The Role of a Life Consultant is**

to provide post deployment training and informal consulting support to soldiers and families to supplement the services provided by the community. Address reunion/reintegration concerns that service or family members may have.

Life Consultants serve as Liaison within military and local resources. The Life Consultants keep no records and are available at time and place designated by the unit. Services are **FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, and NO RECORDS KEPT!**

#### **How does this Program work with existing programs and resources?**

Life consultants will not duplicate any existing program. They work closely with Army Community Service, and will make referrals on a case by case basis.

**What are the benefits of hosting a Life Consultant?**

- Reach out to service and family members that are not serviced currently.
- Provide informal easy to access information.
- Be present at times and locations where soldiers are – unit location.
- Reach out to customers that are geographically dispersed such as National Guard and Reserve families and soldiers.
- Conduct individual or group coaching and training sessions that address particular needs, e.g. meeting your baby for the first time, single soldiers reunion, parenting after deployment and others.

**What kinds of qualifications does a Life Consultant have?**

- Licensed clinical social workers, psychologists, and other mental health professionals.
- Training in Military soldier and family support programs
- Knowledge of referral sources
- Sensitivity to client's issues

**Will the Life Consultant provide formal counseling/treatment?**

No...The purpose of having mental health professionals is for the knowledge base to consult informally with soldiers and families and identify early signs of stress. Staff will suggest resources such as Army Community Service, One Source, chaplains, care managers, social work services, etc.

**What procedures are followed in the event Life Consultant encounter a high-risk person/situation?**

Life Consultants are obligated by ethical and professional standards (regardless of their state of licensing) to report any cases where someone may be in danger of harming themselves or another person. In this case, the consultant will contact Army Community Service for the referral or if needed, an immediate point-of-contact at any given location.

**Will our unit/organization be assigned to the same LCs repeatedly?**

Army Community Service will do its best to marry units with the same group of consultants whenever possible.

**How can I request a Life Consultant for my unit?**

The Life Consultants provides request forms and guidance information to Army Community Services to distribute to Commanders or Rear Detachment to contact Army Community Service at (785) 239-9435 or e-mail [site2665@us.army.mil](mailto:site2665@us.army.mil) and provide redeployment date and time, number of

service members returning, etc. A space for life consultant needs to be provided, such as:

- Day Room
- Motor Pool
- Dining Facilities
- FRG/SRP Meetings
- Barracks
- Gyms

### **How will soldiers and family members learn about the Life Consultant Program?**

In addition to unit placement, Army Community Service will provide posters and business cards for distribution and information through various media outlets.

### **Are there any Fort Riley success Stories?**

To many to recount....However they are confidential. The first Life Consultants had their, boot on the ground at Fort Riley on May 15, 2005. They were hosted by COSCOM units that were returning from a year deployment. Commanders welcomed Life Consultants at their areas and Chaplains worked closely with Life Consultants ensuring that all service members had an opportunity to share their experiences.

